

Message Text

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SUBJ: PREPARATORY MEETING FOR MFMM

1. DON RAFAEL DE LA COLINA, MEXICAN AMBASSADOR TO THE OAS AND REPRESENTATIVE TO THE PREPARATORY MEETING, GAVE ME THE STATE OF PLAY. THE FOLLOWING IS THE PICTURE HE GAVE ME:

2. THOUGH THERE IS STILL A GREAT DEAL OF DISCUSSION AHEAD, THE GENERAL OUTLINE OF THE MFMM FORMAT IS NOW BECOMING CLEAR. AT THE FIRST CLOSED SESSION THURSDAY, RABASA WISHES TO MAKE BRIEF INTRODUCTORY REMARKS, AFTER WHICH SECRETARY KISSINGER WOULD MAKE A PRESENTATION ON THE EIGHT LATIN-INITIATED AGENDA ITEMS. THEREAFTER, THE SPOKESMEN ON THE VARIOUS QUESTIONS WOULD BE FREE TO ASK QUESTIONS, PRIMARILY FOR CLARIFICATION. (THERE WOULD BE FROM TWO TO FOUR "SPOKESMEN" ON EACH QUESTION, BUT ONLY ONE WOULD ACTUALLY SPEAK, THE OTHERS SERVING AS A SORT OF BACK-UP PANEL.) FOLLOWING THIS, LATE THURSDAY AFTERNOON, THE LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD HOLD THEIR CAUCUS TO DIGEST SECRETARY'S REMARKS.

3. FRIDAY MORNING WOULD BE TAKEN UP WITH SEPARATE DISCUSSIONS ON EACH OF THE LATIN AMERICAN AGENDA ITEMS, WITH THE SPOKESMEN AGAIN IN CHARGE OF THE LATIN SIDE OF THE DIALOGUE. THESE DISCUSSIONS COULD END AT THE NOON BREAK OR CONTINUE INTO THE FIRST PART OF THE AFTERNOON SESSION. THEY WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY A PRESENTATION BY SECRETARY KISSINGER ON THE TWO U.S.-INITIATED ITEMS. THE LATIN FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD THEN HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SECRETARY'S

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PRESENTATION ON THESE TWO ITEMS. THE DELEGATIONS ALL AGREED

THAT THE LATIN FOREIGN MINISTERS SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO MAKE ANY DEFINITIVE REPLY TO THE SECRETARY ON THESE ITEMS, PARTICULARLY ON ENERGY, THOUGH SOME MAY WISH TO COMMENT AD REFERENDUM THEIR GOVERNMENTS.

4. SATURDAY MORNING WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR "A FREE FOR ALL", UNRESTRICTED EXCHANGE. ANY FOREIGN MINISTER, INCLUDING SECRETARY KISSINGER, COULD RAISE ANY QUESTION HE WISHES. THE LAST ITEM ON THE MFM AGENDA WOULD BE DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF A FINAL DOCUMENT OF SOME SORT.

5. THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT HAS PREPARED A PRELIMINARY WORKING DRAFT OF POSSIBLE DECLARATION WHICH IT PLANS TO PRESENT TO THE PREPARATORY MEETING TODAY (FEB 14) AS A BASIS FOR DISCUSSION. DE LA COLINA STATED THAT THIS WOULD MERELY FORM THE BASIS FOR DISCUSSION AMONG THE LATINS AND WOULD BE MUCH CHANGED BEFORE A CONSENSUS COULD BE REACHED ON WHAT THE LATINS HOPED COULD BE INCLUDED IN ANY FINAL DECLARATION. (HE SAID HE WOULD PRIVATELY PROVIDE ME WITH A COPY OF THIS MEXICAN WORKING DRAFT DURING THE COURSE OF TODAY.) HE SAID HE ASSUMES THAT THE U.S.G. IS WORKING ON A SIMILAR DRAFT DOCUMENT AND THAT THE TWO CAN BE "MARRIED" INTO A DECLARATION FOR APPROVAL BY THE MFM. HE ENVISAGED A "DECLARATION" WHICH MIGHT (1) SET FORTH THOSE POINTS ON WHICH THE U.S. AND LATIN AMERICANS AGREE, (2) GIVE THE RESPECTIVE POSITIONS ON THESE POINTS WHERE AGREEMENT WAS INCOMPLETE, AND (3) PLEDGE TO COOPERATE IN SEEKING MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF SUCH OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS. BARBADOS, BRAZIL AND PERHAPS OTHERS FELT THAT A FINAL "DECLARATION" WOULD BE UNDESIRABLE, BUT DE LA COLINA FELT THAT THEY WOULD GO ALONG WITH A MAJORITY.

6. ACCORDING TO DE LA COLINA, THE ATMOSPHERE IS GENERALLY ONE OF OPTIMISM, THOUGH BRAZIL IS AN ARTICULATE SPOKESMAN FOR A MORE PESSIMISTIC VIEWPOINT. THE MEETING IS TAKING NO VOTES AND IS REACHING ALL ITS DECISIONS BY CONSENSUS (FOLLOWING PRECEDENT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE). IT WILL PROBABLY NOT BE ABLE TO DECIDE WHICH FOREIGN MINISTER WILL MAKE THE INAUGURAL SESSION SPEECH OR WHICH WILL BE SPOKESMEN. THIS WILL HAVE TO BE DECIDED BY THE LATIN FOREIGN MINISTERS
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THEMSELVES NEXT WEEK.

7. DE LA COLINA EMPHASIZED THAT, FROM THE MEXICAN VIEWPOINT, THIS IS ONLY THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF MEETING WHICH WILL SERVE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS IN THE HEMISPHERE. WE DISCUSSED WHAT THE NEXT STEP SHOULD BE. DE LA COLINA FAVORED A SECOND MFM IN ATLANTA, NOT "UNDER" THE OAS BUT TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE PRESENCE OF THE MINISTERS FOR THE OAS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING TO MEET SEPARATELY AND INFORMALLY,
AS IN MEXICO. WE DISCUSSED THE ADVISABILITY OF UTILIZING
THE WEEKEND BETWEEN THE OPENING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON
FRIDAY, APRIL 19, AND THE BEGINNING OF SERIOUS BUSINESS
THE FOLLOWING MONDAY FOR SUCH A FOLLOW-UP MFM.

8. DE LA COLINA ADMITTED THAT HIS REPORT WAS ANTICIPATORY
REPORTING, AS MOST DECISIONS WERE YET TO COME. (IT HAS
BEEN AGREED THAT QUIJANO, AS PRESIDENT, WOULD MAKE THE
FORMAL REPORT TO ME AS THE U.S. LIAISON.) BUT HE NOTED
THAT HE HAS HAD "A FEW YEARS OF EXPERIENCE
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